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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MADRID 002483

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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [SP](#) [PSOE](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN - BIOGRAPHIES ON MFA DIRECTORS GENERAL

Summary

1. (U) This cable provides biographies on new directors general in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI, Spain's equivalent of USAID). GOS directors general are roughly equivalent to State Department assistant secretaries; AECI directors general are roughly equivalent to AID assistant administrators. End Summary.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2. (SBU) The following are directors general in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

A. Director General of Foreign Policy for Europe and North America - JOSE MARIA PONS IRAZABAL (replaces Gerardo Angel Bugallo)

Born April 1948 in Palma de Mallorca, Pons holds a degree in law and entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1974. Pons served in Poland and Switzerland. He was executive adviser in the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Relations with the European Communities. He was also director and assistant spokesperson for the International Affairs Department of the Office of the President. In 1995, Pons was named ambassador to the Netherlands. In 2001, he was Spain's ambassador to Denmark.

B. Director General of Foreign Policy for the Mediterranean, Near East and Africa - ALVARO IRANZO GUTIERREZ

Born August 1955 in San Sebastian, Iranzo holds a degree in law and entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1981. He served in Gabon, Mozambique and Algeria. He moved from the number two (deputy director) to the number one position (director) in the North African affairs office. Later, he was Spain's ambassador to Angola. Since 2001, Iranzo has been ambassador to Malaysia.

C. Director General of Foreign Policy for Latin America - FRANCISCO JAVIER SANDOMINGO NUNEZ.

Born January 1954 in A Coruna, Sandomingo has a degree in law. He entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1980. He served in Costa Rica, Mexico, Thailand and Cuba. He was deputy director of eastern European affairs and consul general in Hong Kong. Before assuming his current position, Sandomingo had been Spain's ambassador to Zimbabwe.

D. Director General of Foreign Policy for Asia and the Pacific - JOSE EUGENIO SALARICH FERNANDEZ DE VALDERRAMA

Born January 1955 in Madrid, Salarich holds a degree in law and entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1981. He served in Cameroon, Spain's Permanent Mission to the UN and Spain's mission to the Holy See. He was deputy director of European political cooperation, and EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. In 1997, Salarich was named ambassador to Mozambique. In 2001, he was named ambassador to Thailand.

E. Director General of Foreign Communication - CARMEN FONTES MUNOZ.

Born February 1953 in Madrid, Fontes holds a degree in law and entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1979. Fontes served in Austria and France. She was executive advisor in the cabinet of the minister of foreign affairs and deputy director in the Office of Analysis and Planning of Foreign Policy. In 1997, she was Spain's DCM in Germany. In 2002, Fontes served as culture and cooperation advisor in Spain's embassy in Russia.

F. Director General of the Foreign Service - DIEGO MUNIZ LOVELACE.

Born April 1951 in Gijon, Muniz holds a degree in law and entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1977. He served in Sweden and Denmark. He was deputy director of immigration and participation in the office of the director general of consular affairs, and consul general in Antwerp. In 1996, Muniz was Spain's DCM in Portugal. In 2001, he was Spain's DCM in Mexico.

G. Director General of Consular Affairs and Assistance - MIGUEL ANGEL DE FRUTOS GOMEZ.

Born September 1948 in Segovia, De Frutos Gomez holds a degree in law and entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1976. He served in Egypt, Spain's Permanent Delegation to the OECD, Turkey, and Portugal. He was deputy director general of cultural promotion for the Institute of Latin American Cooperation at Spain's Agency for International Cooperation, and deputy director general of cultural promotion at the Institute of International Cooperation. In 1998, De Frutos Gomez was deputy director general of juridical affairs. Since 2002, he has been deputy director general of foreign affairs.

H. Director of International Economic Relations - EMILIO FERNANDEZ-CASTANO Y DIAZ-CONEJA

Born January 1950 in Santander, Fernandez-Castano holds a degree in law and entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1980. He has served in Poland and in Spain's mission to the European Communities (EC). He was deputy director of EC Coordination and Institutional Relations, chief of staff for the secretary of state for the EC, and secretary of state

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for the European Union. In 1997, Fernandez-Castano was named ambassador to Australia. In 2001, he was named ambassador to Algeria.

I. Director General of Cultural and Scientific Relations - ALFONS MARTINELL SEMPERE

Born in 1948, Martinell holds a doctoral degree in the science of education from the University of Girona, a degree in philosophy and letters from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, and a master's degree in primary education from the University of Barcelona. Martinell has held several positions in the city council of Girona as a specialist in education and culture. He was director of studies director at the Euro-American Campus of Cultural Cooperation of Barcelona, Cartagena de Indias and Sevilla. Martinell also directed cultural management seminars in Mexico and Chile. Before his recent appointment, Martinell was the director of the UNESCO professorship at the University of Girona, tenured professor at the University of Girona, president of the INTERARTS foundation of Barcelona, and coordinator of the IBERFORMAT Network of Training Centers for cultural management in Latin America.

J. ARTURO LACLAUSTRA BELTRAN - Director General of International Affairs for Terrorism, the United Nations, and Multilateral Organizations
Born 1948 in Barcelona, LaClaustra holds a degree in law and entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1974. He has been posted in Canada, Morocco, and Spain's Permanent Mission to the UN. He was chief of protocol for President Felipe Gonzalez, deputy director for Western European Affairs, chief of cabinet for the Government's Minister-spokesperson, deputy director general for North America and deputy chief of mission in Spain's Permanent Mission before the UN. In 1999, LaClaustra was named deputy director general for foreign affairs. Before assuming his current position, LaClaustra was DCM in Lisbon.

Spanish Agency for International Cooperation

3. (SBU) The following are directors general in Spain's Agency for International Cooperation (AECI):

A. Director General of Cooperation with Latin America - AURORA DAZ-RATO REVUELTA.

Born February 1957 in Madrid, Diaz-Rato holds a degree in law. She entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1983. She served in Costa Rica and Ireland. She was assistant spokesperson in the cabinet of the minister of foreign affairs, deputy director general of Western

Europe, and assistant deputy director general in the office of the secretary general for European affairs. Since 2002, she has been assistant spokesperson in the office of the director general for the coordination of general and technical affairs with the European Union.

B. Director General of Cooperation with Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe - RICARDO MARTINEZ VAZQUEZ.

Born June 1958 in Seville, Martinez holds a degree in law. He entered the Spanish diplomatic corps in 1987. He served in Spain's Permanent Mission to the United Nations and International Organization in Geneva and Panama. He was technical advisor to the diplomatic information bureau and deputy director general of cooperation with Eastern Europe and Asia at AECI. Since 2002, Martinez has served as deputy director general of cooperation with Mediterranean countries and Eastern Europe at AECI.

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